Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
for 09 August 2006

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

For info click here
http://www.dhs.gov/

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports as many as 38,000 veterans may be at risk of identity theft, because a Department of Veterans Affairs subcontractor lost a desktop computer containing their sensitive personal data. (See item 9)

- Aviation experts are concerned about equipment failures in the nation's aviation system, after a computerized system failed at Los Angeles International Airport, marking the second serious problem to disable the world's fifth−busiest airport in the past three weeks. (See item 16)

- The Associated Press reports researchers are creating new "smart video surveillance" systems that can detect explosives by recognizing the electromagnetic waves given off by objects, even under clothing. (See item 39)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials; Defense Industrial Base

Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation and Border Security; Postal and Shipping

Sustenance and Health: Agriculture; Food; Water; Public Health

Federal and State: Government; Emergency Services

IT and Cyber: Information Technology and Telecommunications; Internet Alert Dashboard

Other: Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons; General; DHS Daily Report Contact Information

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES−ISAC) – http://www.esisac.com]

1. *August 08, U.S. Department of Energy* — **DOE releases National Electric Transmission Congestion study.** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Samuel W. Bodman Tuesday, August 8, marked the one−year anniversary of the signing of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. DOE also released the National Electric Transmission Congestion Study, which provides

analysis of U.S. generation and transmission capacity and identifies critical areas that need attention to meet growing demand. Based on the study's research, Secretary Bodman may select and designate geographic areas as "National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors" to facilitate the construction of new transmission capacity that will relieve congestion problems. The congestion study identifies three types of congestion areas. "Critical Congestion Areas," include Southern California and the Atlantic coastal area from the New York City area to northern Virginia. "Congestion Areas of Concern" acknowledges four areas that need further study to determine the magnitude of their congestion problems, including New England; the Phoenix−Tucson area; the Seattle−Portland area; and the San Francisco Bay Area. "Conditional Congestion Areas" identifies areas where congestion is not presently acute, but could become so if considerable new electric generation were to be built without associated transmission capacity. These areas include Montana−Wyoming; Dakotas−Minnesota; Kansas−Oklahoma; Illinois, Indiana, and Upper Appalachia; and the Southeast.
National Electric Transmission Congestion Study: http://www.oe.energy.gov/.
Source: http://www.energy.gov/news/3903.htm

2. *August 08, U.S. Department of Energy* — **Energy Information Administration releases Short−Term Energy Outlook.** In July, monthly average crude oil and gasoline prices reached new high levels in nominal terms. International events continue to add uncertainty and upward price pressure on energy prices. The International Energy Administration has raised its forecast for the August 2006 West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil price to $76.50 per barrel, an increase of $3.00 per barrel from last month's forecast. The higher forecast WTI price is a result of the additional pressures occurring in July and a projected reduction in Alaskan oil production following BP's announcement that it was temporarily shutting down Alaska's Prudhoe Bay oil field. Petroleum product prices are also expected to be higher in August, particularly on the West Coast where substitute oil supplies will likely require higher transportation and processing costs. Significant relief from the high crude oil and gasoline prices is not likely to occur soon. In 2006 and 2007, the WTI crude oil spot price is projected to average around $70 per barrel. Natural gas prices are projected to be lower through the rest of this year relative to the corresponding period in 2005.
Source: http://www.eia.doe.gov/steo

3. *August 06, Associated Press* — **Bonneville Power moving ahead with plan to dividing up system.** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is pressing forward with its plan to divide up the federal Columbia River Power System in hopes of approving it in January. BPA is pledging to ship a final plan to Washington, DC, early next year. The agency is gathering public comment through the end of September. BPA wants a plan in place soon, in part, so utilities and other entities can begin making decisions about future power supplies. Historically, BPA has provided all or most of the power needs for its public utility customers, even if it meant acquiring extra supplies when demand topped what its system of federal dams and lone nuclear plant could generate. BPA's proposal leaves it with virtually no role. The agency would sell 7,100 megawatts of electricity generated by the Columbia River Power System to its 130 preference customers −− public utilities and rural electric co−ops −− giving each a legally defined sliver of the system's output. As those utilities grow, they would be responsible for acquiring new power supplies on their own.
Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/6420AP_WA_Bonneville_Div iding_System.html

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *August 07, Sacramento Bee (CA)* — **Chlorine gas cloud sends 17 to hospital, 100 evacuated.** A chemical loading accident triggered a chlorine gas cloud at the Placerville, CA, city aquatics center that sent about 17 people to two hospitals and forced the evacuation of about 100 people on Monday afternoon, August 7. The chemical company involved, Sierra Chemical Co. of Sparks, NV, is the same company that was involved in an accident that triggered a chlorine cloud release and forced the evacuation from a Rocklin fitness center in 2002.
Source: http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/story/14290176p−15120673c .html

Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *August 08, Washington Technology* — **DoD revises security clearance guidance.** The Pentagon has cleared the way for defense industrial workers who are facing delays in renewing their security clearances to remain on the job, Rep. Rob Simmons (R−CT), said in a news release. Budget constraints prompted the Department of Defense (DoD) in April to halt processing of industry clearances for several weeks. As a result, many re−investigations are overdue.
News release: http://simmons.house.gov/UploadedFiles/DoDClearances%20−−%20 Aug2.pdf
Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/2909 9−1.html

6. *August 07, Congress Daily* — **Report: Army future combat program may be unaffordable.** A new government report on the Army's massive Future Combat Systems (FCS) questions whether the cash−strapped service can afford to buy the program, delivering the latest in a series of blows to the backbone of the Army's transformation plans. The program, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), would eventually eat up 40 percent to 50 percent of the Army's procurement accounts, leaving scarce dollars to buy other needed gear. "Dedicating such a large proportion of the service's procurement funding to the FCS program would leave little money for purchasing other weapons systems (such as helicopters) or needed support equipment (such as generators and ammunition)," CBO said in a report released last week. CBO also projected that the FCS price tag, which already has jumped by billions of dollars in the last few years due to a major program restructuring, could grow by another 60 percent, largely because the program entered the development stage prematurely.
CBO Report: http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/74xx/doc7461/08−02−Army.pdf
Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34727&dcn=to daysnews

Banking and Finance Sector

7. *August 09, Websense Security Labs* — **Malicious Code/Phishing Alert: Data stolen via ICMP.** Websense Security Labs has received a sample of a new phishing Trojan that delivers

stolen information back to the attacker via ICMP packets. Upon infection of a victim's computer, the Trojan will install itself as an Internet Explorer Browser Helper Object (BHO). The BHO then waits for the user to post personal information to a monitored Website. As this information is entered by the user, it is captured by the BHO and sent back to the attacker. The method of network transport used by the attacker makes this Trojan unique. Typically, keyloggers of this type will send the stolen information back to the attacker via e−mail or HTTP POST, which can appear suspicious. Instead, this Trojan encodes the data with a simple XOR algorithm before placing it into the data section of an ICMP ping packet.
Source: http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID =570

8. *August 07, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: 2CheckOut.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new phishing attack that targets customers of 2Checkout.com (2CO). Users receive a spoofed e−mail message, which claims that their account may have been accessed by another party. The message provides a link to a phishing Website that attempts to trick users into logging on and providing personal information.
Source: http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID =569

9. *August 07, Associated Press* — **Personal data for 38,000 veterans missing, VA says.** As many as 38,000 veterans may be at risk of identity theft because a Veterans Affairs (VA) Department subcontractor lost a desktop computer containing their sensitive personal data. VA Secretary Jim Nicholson said that Unisys, a subcontractor hired to assist in insurance collections for VA medical centers in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, reported the missing computer Thursday, August 3 from Unisys' office in Reston, VA. It is unclear what happened to the computer, Nicholson said. Local and federal authorities are investigating. The computer is believed to contain names, addresses, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, insurance carriers, and claims data including medical information for veterans who received care at the hospitals in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh during the past four years. According to initial estimates, the data covered about 5,000 patients treated at Philadelphia, 11,000 treated at Pittsburgh and 2,000 deceased patients. The VA is investigating whether the information also may have covered 20,000 who received care through the Pittsburgh medical center. The computer was password protected, but the data was not encrypted. Affected veterans will be notified and provided credit monitoring, if appropriate.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/computersecurity/infotheft /2006−08−07−veterans−data_x.htm?csp=34

10. *August 07, Associated Press* — **Officials clamp down on money launderers.** Zimbabwean authorities have arrested more than 2,000 people accused of money laundering in the seven days since the introduction of a shock currency reform intended to tame the world's highest rate of inflation and prop up the teetering economy. The Reserve Bank last week introduced a new currency by effectively knocking off the final three digits −− thus 250,000 Zimbabwe dollars became 250 Zimbabwe dollars. It gave a deadline of August 21 for exchanging the old notes but set limits on how much individuals and businesses could deposit without having to answer questions about the origins of the money. The Herald reported 2,036 people had been caught by the Reserve Bank and security forces to stop syndicates trying to evade the controls by dividing stashes of money among several people.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/060807/zimbabwe_economy.html?.v=1

11. *August 07, TechWeb* — **AOL exposes search data of 658,000 people.** AOL on Monday, August 7, admitted exposing the personal search data of 658,000 people, and issued an apology. AOL made the information available for download through its research site. The people were randomly chosen among users of AOL's search engine from March through May. Each record was stripped of the person's screen name, which was replaced with a number. While it's unclear how long the information was available, it was on the site at least since Saturday and taken down on Sunday. Bloggers reported that the two−gigabyte file provided by AOL included among the search queries personal information such as people's names, addresses, social security numbers, and telephone numbers. Even if the names of search engine users are withheld, privacy advocates argue, what people scour the Web for can sometimes provide enough information for employers or friends and family to identify them. The search data could also be used by law enforcement to begin investigations based on what looks like illegal activity, even though there's no evidence that a crime has been committed.
Source: http://www.informationweek.com/shared/printableArticle.jhtml ?articleID=191801240

12. *August 07, Sophos* — **JFK assassination secrets for sale in latest e−mail scam.** SophosLabs has warned computer users to be wary of an e−mail claiming to come from a dying KGB agent offering to pass on secrets of the John F. Kennedy assassination. Sophos believes that the spammed e−mail campaign is an attempt to lure unsuspecting lovers of conspiracy theories into handing over cash and confidential information to Internet scammers. The e−mail's author, who says he is suffering from a terminal disease, claims to have access to declassified CIA documents, files from the former KGB, and interviews with key people that have never before been made public. In the e−mail, which has been spammed out across the Internet, he tells people that his information could help the recipient become famous.
Source: http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2006/08/kenn edy−scam.html

13. *August 05, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: Austin Federal Credit Union.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new phishing attack that targets customers of Austin Federal Credit Union, which is based in Austin, TX. Users receive a spoofed e−mail that claims that their account has been compromised. The spoofed e−mail instructs the user to confirm account information by following a link to a phishing Website. Users who visit this Website are prompted to enter their account password and credit card information.
Source: http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID =568

[Return to top]

Transportation and Border Security Sector

14. *August 09, Radio New Zealand* — **Security at international airports to be increased.** Security at New Zealand's international airports is to be increased over concerns that aircraft may be vulnerable to hijacking or sabotage by airport workers. The Cabinet will consider a legal change shortly that will require some airport workers to be electronically screened before they can access the tarmac. This follows a security standard introduced by the International Civil Aviation Organization. Minister for Transport Safety, Harry Duynhoven, says aviation security is an important issue and New Zealand needs to meet the new standard. The standard of New Zealand's aviation security is to come under international scrutiny also. The International Civil Aviation Organization will come to New Zealand in September to carry out

its first security audit of this country's airports and airlines.
Source: http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/latest/200608090614/1586b750

15. *August 08, USA TODAY* — **Airlines plan to add more flights.** U.S. airlines are ending a prolonged period of cutting back their flying capacity on domestic routes. For travelers, the growth in the supply of airline seats could lead to relief from rising airfares. Fliers could also find more elbow room on crowded flights. "It could spell a little bit of relief," says consultant David Beckerman of Back Aviation Solutions. According to a USA TODAY analysis, airlines, including regional partners, will increase their domestic seat offerings by nearly two percent in November 2006 compared with November 2005. Annual growth for December will be about three percent from a year earlier. It will be the first time since summer 2005 that U.S. airlines have increased domestic capacity on a year−over−year basis. The calculation varies among airlines, but decisions to add seats generally reflect greater optimism in the industry about its prospects for making money.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/biztravel/2006−08−07−air−capac ity−usat_x.htm

16. *August 08, Associated Press* — **LAX malfunctions raise safety questions.** A computerized system that guides arriving planes onto a runway at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) failed, marking the second serious problem to disable the world's fifth−busiest airport in the past three weeks, officials said. The latest malfunction on Monday, August 7, caused flight delays across the nation. Aviation experts said the equipment failures raise questions about the nation's aviation system, which is straining under passenger loads that have rebounded to their highest levels since September 11, 2001. LAX, for example, averages 1,800 daily flights and will serve an estimated 18.7 million passengers this summer, 200,000 more than last year. "The FAA's complete instrument system, as we know, is somewhat accident prone," said Jack Keady, an aviation consultant who has followed the problems at LAX. Monday's malfunctioning equipment, called a localizer, acts as a beacon to guide arriving planes onto runways. It is most crucial when it is foggy or hazy. It was foggy at the airport on Monday. The problem was compounded because one of the airport's four runways was closed for a major construction project. To compensate, one of the departure runways was handling both departures and arrivals — and it was that shared runway that had the problem.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2006−08−08−LAX−problems _x.htm

17. *August 08, National Journal's Technology Daily* — **TSA review of new passenger screening system due next month.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) next month is expected to complete an overhaul of an airline passenger−screening system, according to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) inspector. "In early 2006, TSA suspended development of Secure Flight and initiated a reassessment," Cathleen Berrick, director of GAO's homeland security and justice division, told the House Homeland Security Intelligence Subcommittee in response to written questions. GAO on Monday released Berrick's responses to written questions from the subcommittee based on a June 14 hearing on Secure Flight. She said the benefits of Secure Flight over the current system "are uncertain" until TSA finishes its review and makes decisions about the future direction of the program.
Berrick's responses: http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d061051r.pdf
Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34740&dcn=to daysnews

18.

August 08, Transportation Security Administration — **TSA revokes air cargo security program approval for Professional Export Services.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced on Monday, August 7, that it is revoking the security program approval of Professional Export Services (PES), an Indirect Air Carrier based in Egan, MN, because PES does not meet TSA security standards. Specifically, among other violations of TSA security requirements, PES tendered at least 48 shipments from unknown shippers to passenger air carriers on numerous occasions and failed to provide cargo security training to their employees involved with the transport of air cargo. PES also failed to provide the required cargo security information to contractors hired to perform duties on behalf of the company. PES was notified that it will no longer be permitted to tender cargo for transport on passenger aircraft. "TSA continues to be vigilant in maintaining the integrity of the air cargo supply chain," said Robert Jamison, Deputy Assistant Secretary for TSA. "We will continue to monitor and act upon any violations that could jeopardize the security of air cargo." Passenger air carriers throughout the nation have been notified not to accept cargo from PES. Any passenger air carrier that accepts cargo from a non−TSA approved Indirect Air Carrier may face a civil fine of up to $25,000 per violation.
Source: http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2006/press_release_0807200 6b.shtm

19. *August 08, Associated Press* — **Amtrak urges Vermont to try smaller rail cars.** Smaller and more fuel efficient passenger rail cars might be tested on Amtrak's Vermonter route if state officials approve buying the equipment. Besides saving $4.25 million over three years, proponents of the plan say, the new equipment might help to boost ridership. The new, diesel−powered equipment consists of a self−propelled passenger car that would pull a "trailer" passenger car. They would have seating for as many as 120 and would replace locomotives and full−size passenger cars with seating for 400. The new equipment, referred to by rail experts as diesel multiple units, or DMUs, is more fuel efficient and requires smaller crews. The state Transportation Agency has endorsed the proposal, considered a demonstration project by Amtrak, and now is asking lawmakers to approve it as early as September.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2006/08/08 /amtrak_urges_vermont_to_try_smaller_rail_cars/

20. *August 08, Homeland Response* — **Coast Guard force undermanned.** At a time when the nation's security is elevated and port security is paramount, the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) claims that the Coast Guard Reserve is undermanned. Citing changing demands on the U.S. Coast Guard, especially increased emphasis on port security and mounting challenges for the force to accomplish its 11 missions, ROA recommended in recent testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Fisheries and the Coast Guard, that funding for 9,300 Coast Guard Reservists be authorized, an increase of 1,200 over current levels. The CG Reserve is authorized 10,000 serving members, but it has been only funded for 8,100 reservists. An ROA resolution recommends increasing the authorized end−strength to at least 15,000.
Source: http://www.homelandresponse.org/500/News/Article/False/24668 /News

[Return to top]

Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *August 08, American City Business Journals* — **FedEx buys land for Florida hub.** FedEx Corp. has signed a land deal to build 200,000 square feet of package and freight distribution facilities in West Palm Beach, FL. The proposed 120,000−square−foot FedEx Ground hub and 80,000−square−foot FedEx Freight facility are scheduled to open by July 2007. The new hub is part of nationwide effort by Memphis, Tenn.−based FedEx to step up capacity and speed for handling packages in the face of mounting competition by United Parcel Service Inc. and DHL International GmbH. The move is intended to double FedEx's ability to move packages by 2010.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/060807/1327509.html?.v=1

[Return to top]

Agriculture Sector

22. *August 08, Toledo Blade (OH)* — **Wildlife propagator served with 21 charges.** A Holmes County commercial wildlife propagator has been served with 21 wildlife charges alleging sloppy record keeping following an investigation by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. The case is important because wildlife authorities around the country think that sloppy record keeping and maintenance by commercial wildlife propagators has been a major force behind the spread of dreaded chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer and elk. CWD is present in wild and captive herds in at least 14 states and two Canadian provinces. Though so far it has not been detected in Ohio despite extensive monitoring, it has appeared as near as northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The propagator operates a deer propagation business and hunting preserve in Holmes County in north−central Ohio. He faces 20 counts of faulty record keeping and one of incomplete preserve records. Wildlife investigators said that several charges were related to a large number of deer he imported into the state. In addition to CWD, concern over other disease issues such as bovine tuberculosis has caused Ohio wildlife authorities to take seriously the monitoring of commercial propagation operations.
Source: http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060808/COLUMNIST22/608080311/−1/NEWS24

23. *August 07, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Georgia confirms soybean rust on soybeans in Tift County.** Georgia officials report that Asian soybean rust was confirmed Monday, August 7, on leaves taken from soybeans growing in an industry research field near Chula in Tift County. Tift becomes the 29th county in the U.S. with soybean rust, and the sixth (and northernmost) in Georgia this year. It is the ninth U.S. county in five states with rust on this season's soybeans. This is the first rust this year in Tift County, which had positive rust finds in three places last year.
Source: http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=905

[Return to top]

Food Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]

Water Sector

24. *August 08, Associated Press* — **Sri Lankan rebels end water blockade.** Tamil rebels released water from a disputed reservoir Tuesday, August 8, in Sri Lanka, ending a 19–day blockade. On July 20, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels blocked water supplies to 60,000 people in government–controlled villages in northeastern Trincomalee district, 135 miles northeast of Colombo. The group said the move was aimed at forcing the government to fulfill the needs of people in rebel–held villages.
Source: http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/world/4101891.html

[Return to top]

Public Health Sector

25. *August 08, Agence France–Presse* — **Hand, foot and mouth disease kills thirteenth child in Malaysia.** A four–year–old boy in Malaysia's eastern Sarawak state has become the 13th fatality in an outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease that authorities have been battling to contain. The boy died Tuesday, august 8, in a hospital in the town of Miri in the state's north. Deputy Chief Minister George Chan said 62 new cases had been detected in the last 24 hours with infections concentrated in the state's capital Kuching and Miri and Bintulu towns. The virus, which causes mouth and throat ulcers, fever and blisters on hands and feet, has infected 13,266 children in Sarawak since an initial outbreak at the end of January and the second round, which started in early May.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060808/hl_afp/malaysiahealthdi sease_060808120732

26. *August 08, Associated Press* — **Indonesian bird–flu toll rises.** Two Indonesian teenagers have died of bird flu, according to local test results that, if confirmed, would bring Indonesia's death toll to 44 and make it the world's hardest–hit country. Normally reliable tests performed at a local laboratory showed that a boy and girl, both 16–years–old, died this week of the illness, health officials said Tuesday, August 8. Neighboring Vietnam is the second hardest–hit nation at 42, but it has not recorded any deaths in 2006.
Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/08/08/ap/world/mainD8JC7 50G0.shtml

27. *August 08, Reuters* — **China confirms human bird flu case from 2003.** China confirmed on Tuesday, August 8, that the country's first human case of the H5N1 bird flu virus in 2003 was two years earlier than originally reported. The case had spurred questions about whether there might have been other human H5N1 infections in China prior to what had been its first reported human case, near the end of 2005. Eight Chinese researchers published a letter in the New England Journal of Medicine in June saying a 24–year–old soldier, who was admitted to hospital in November 2003 for respiratory distress and pneumonia and later died, had been infected with H5N1. His virus samples genetically resembled H5N1 viruses taken from Chinese chickens in various provinces in 2004, the eight experts said. China's Health Ministry confirmed the case on Tuesday by "parallel laboratory tests" carried out in cooperation with the World Health Organization. The scientists' findings were one of the clearest indications yet that the virus might have been brewing for much longer in the vast country than what had been

reported. Experts in Hong Kong have long insisted that the virus has always been present in mainland China, but Chinese authorities have denied that.
Source: http://in.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=world News&storyID=2006−08−08T152730Z_01_NOOTR_RTRJONC_0_India−262 765−3.xml

[Return to top]

Government Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]

Emergency Services Sector

28. *August 08, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Federal Emergency Management Agency National Situation Update.** Tropical Activity: Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Sea: In the Atlantic, what is left of Chris is moving through the Gulf of Mexico. Regeneration is unlikely due to the hostile upper−level winds the system will be facing over the next two days. Western Pacific: There are three storms in the Western Pacific (Saomai, Maria and Bopha). Earthquake Activity: The West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center issued an "Information Bulletin" in response to a 7.0 magnitude earthquake near the south Pacific island jurisdiction of Vanuatu. Based on the 93 mile depth of the earthquake, a tsunami is not expected along any U.S. coasts or Pacific Islands of U.S. interest.
To view other Situation Updates: http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm
Source: http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat080806.shtm

29. *August 07, Click2Houston* — **Texas hurricane evacuation contraflow routes released.** The Texas Department of Transportation announced a hurricane evacuation contraflow plan for the Houston/Galveston area. The routes were designed to help citizens safely and efficiently leave the area if a large−scale evacuation is needed. Officials said the contraflow plan will be implemented only if the area is threatened by a major storm and mandatory evacuations are ordered. Not all evacuations will necessarily involve contraflow lanes.
Contraflow Plan: http://www.click2houston.com/download/2006/0807/9641684.pdf
Source: http://www.click2houston.com/weather/9641615/detail.html

30. *August 07, Richmond.com* — **Richmond, Virginia, tests emergency medical response plan.** Local, regional, and state emergency medical response plans were tested on Tuesday, August 8, during a comprehensive training exercise at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. The exercise, coordinated by the Richmond Regional Metropolitan Medical Response System, is intended to assess how various state and local agencies would function together during a medical disaster. The drill included one of the newest concepts in emergency medical response −− use of a hospital coordination center in addition to previously established mass casualty plans, area health department plans, and jurisdictional emergency operations plans. Representatives from various police, fire and emergency medical services agencies, hospitals, public health agencies, and emergency management offices participated.
Source: http://www.richmond.com/news/output.aspx?Article_ID=4370315&

31. *August 07, Washington Technology* — **DHS brings wider range of first responders into smart ID card programs.** National credentialing efforts for emergency responders have been advancing and branching out to include telecommunications specialists, utilities workers and other private−sector disaster response workers. But many questions remain as to who will pay for the initiatives and how extensive they will be. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has begun work on two aspects of credentialing. First is the effort to define and organize emergency responders into categories, such as hazardous−materials firefighters, psychiatric nurses and water rescue specialists. Second, DHS is moving toward developing a national identification card system that can verify identities of firefighters, police, emergency medical technicians and other responders who appear at an incident scene. The categorizing is taking place primarily at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and its National Incident Management System Integration Center. The center also is categorizing resources such as food, water, medical supplies and vehicles. Part of the categorization efforts is expanding the definition of emergency responder to include private−sector workers who can quickly restore power, communications, banking and other critical services. Industry representatives for those workers are in discussions with DHS about developing a national identification card that is interoperable with the first−responder identification card.
Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/21_15/federal/29073 −1.html

32. *August 07, AOAC International* — **Standard developed for collection of suspicious powders.** A national sample collection procedure for visible powders suspected of being biological threat agents has been developed and approved by AOAC International. The standard has also been approved and will be published by ASTM International under the title, Standard Practices for Bulk Sample Collection and Swab Sample Collection of Visible Powders Suspected of Being Biological Agents from Nonporous Surfaces, E2458. This is the first time that a national validated standard has been developed for collecting, packaging, and transporting visible powder samples suspected of being biological agents. It is applicable to nonporous surfaces only and incorporates reference guidance for packaging and transport of suspicious powders to comply with all appropriate federal regulations regarding biosafety and biosecurity. The development and testing of the standard were supported by the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security in response to a need for a coordinated effort with federal agencies and emergency responders to standardize activities related to anthrax and other biological agent incidents.
The full text of the standard is available for purchase:
http://www.astm.org/cgi−bin/SoftCart.exe/DATABASE.CART/REDLI
NE_PAGES/E2458.htm?L+mystore+qdpn5868
Source: http://www.aoac.org/ILM/july_aug_06/suspicious_powders.htm

33. *August 07, Associated Press* — **Forecasters now think hurricane season may be less active.** Hurricane researchers are now weighing that this year's hurricane season won't be as bad as predicted and said a monster storm like Katrina is unlikely. "The probability of another Katrina−like event is very small," said Phillip Klotzbach, lead forecaster for the hurricane research team at Colorado State University (CSU) in Denver. The researchers reduced the number of likely hurricanes to seven from nine and intense hurricanes to three from five. There is, however, a considerably higher−than−average probability of at least one intense hurricane

making landfall in the United States this year, 73 percent. The average is 52 percent. Researcher William Gray said Atlantic Ocean surface temperatures are not quite as warm and surface pressure is not quite as low, both factors in the decision to revise the forecast.
CSU updated hurricane forecast: http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts/2006/aug2006/index.html
CSU's Tropical Meteorology Project: http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/
Source: http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2006/08/07/712 68.htm

[Return to top]

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

34. *August 08, eWeek* — **Researchers warn of serious BlackBerry vulnerability.** Businesses that use gateway security appliances to protect Research In Motion's (RIM) BlackBerry communications servers could be subject to attacks based on the planned release of exploit code by a high−profile malware researcher. According to a warning released by network security applications and device provider Secure Computing, organizations with their BlackBerry servers installed behind their gateway intrusion detection boxes could be compromised when researcher Jesse D'Aguanno, a consultant with risk management experts Praetorian Global, of Placerville, CA, releases his code the week of August 14. D'Aguanno first revealed his vulnerability exploit on Saturday, August 5, at the Defcon hacker convention in Las Vegas. In his presentation at Defcon, D'Aguanno highlighted the ability of a hacking program dubbed BBProxy to be installed on a BlackBerry device or sent as an e−mail attachment to an unsuspecting user. Once installed, the attack opens a covert communications channel with the RIM servers by bypassing gateway security controls installed between the hacker and the inside of the victims' network.
Source: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2000621,00.asp

35. *August 07, Security Focus* — **McAfee SecurityCenter subscription manager ActiveX buffer overflow vulnerability.** McAfee SecurityCenter is prone to a stack−based buffer−overflow vulnerability. This vulnerability requires a certain amount of user−interaction for an attack to occur, such as visiting a malicious Website. A successful exploit would let a remote attacker execute code with the privileges of the currently logged in user.
For a complete list of vulnerable products: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19265/info
Solution: This issue has been addressed in SecurityCenter 7.0. Please see the vendor advisory for further information on obtaining fixes: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19265/references
Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19265/discuss

36. *August 07, CNET News* — **AOL offers free antivirus software.** AOL has introduced free antivirus software that is likely to become the highest−profile alternative to security software you pay for. Active Virus Shield offers basic protection against viruses, spyware and other malicious software, AOL said in a statement Monday, August 7. The product is available to all Internet users, not just to subscribers to AOL's Internet access service. The protective tool is being delivered in partnership with Kaspersky Lab, a well−respected Russian antivirus software maker.
Source: http://news.com.com/AOL+offers+free+antivirus+software/2100−7355_3−6102917.html?tag=nefd.top

37. *August 04, Tech World* — **Security guru lays into database vendors.** Noted security researcher David Litchfield has again panned the state of database security, revealing another clutch of vulnerabilities in the software of a major vendor. In his address at the Black Hat conference in Las Vegas last week, he released details of more than 20 holes that he and his researchers at UK−based Next Generation Security Software had uncovered in IBM's Informix database family. The wide−ranging flaws could allow an attacker to mount a denial−of−service attack, gain access to information, or simply compromise the integrity of the database itself. Versions 7.3, 9.4, and 10.0 are said to be affected.
Source: http://www.techworld.com/security/news/index.cfm?NewsID=6585

38. *July 10, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS Inspector General releases information technology management letter.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General has released a report which presents the information technology management letter for DHS' FY 2005 financial statement audit. It contains observations and recommendations related to information technology internal control that were not required to be reported in the financial statement audit report (OIG−06− 09, November 2005) and represents the separate restricted distribution report mentioned in that report.
Source: http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/OIGr_06−49_Jul06.pd f

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win−rpc), 4672 (eMule), 80 (www), 445 (microsoft−ds), 25 (smtp), 20282 (−−−), 113 (auth), 139 (netbios−ssn), 6346 (gnutella−svc), 135 (epmap) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us−cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it−isac.org/.

[Return to top]

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]

General Sector

39. *August 07, Associated Press* — **Video cameras on the lookout for terrorists.** Researchers at General Electric Co.'s sprawling research center in Niskayuna, NY, are creating new "smart video surveillance" systems that can detect explosives by recognizing the electromagnetic waves given off by objects, even under clothing. Scientist Peter Tu and his team are also developing programs that can recognize faces, pinpoint distress in a crowd by honing in on

erratic body movements and synthesize the views of several cameras into one bird's eye view, as part of a growing effort to thwart terrorism. "We're definitely on the cutting edge," said Tu. "If you want to reduce risk, video is the way to do it. The threat is always evolving, so our video is always evolving." Scientists and others in the industry hope to use various technologies to reduce false alarms, cut manpower used on mundane tasks, and give first–responders better tools to assess threats. Researchers are working on software that allows cameras to separately track people and the items they are carrying to help detect when suspicious packages are left in airports, stadiums and other public places.
Source: http://edition.cnn.com/2006/TECH/08/07/terrorism.technology. ap/

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us–cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us–cert.gov.

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